10/9/86

Ms. Mary McGrory
Washington Post
1150 15 St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20071

Dear Ms. McGrory,

When the Post was put together for today's issue someone unintendedly underscored what I was saying. I hope that what I said did not offend you. It certainly wasn't personal.

Today's story on the newest mess we've made in Nicaragua and the tragic and inevitable loss of lives manages to omit what the Post has in its morgue on Southern Air Transport. I enclose it. I also have a story that was sent to me that reports the sweetheart ~~date~~ deal the CIA made in selling Southern Air to what is called its "front" for a ridiculously low price.

The Post was dutiful in its uncritical reporting of all the denials when consultation with its own morgue would have at the very least raised substantial questions about the official denials. Aside from the obvious fact that what we knew happened came close to requiring a CIA involvement, the involvement of its Southern Air front, not included in any official comment I've seen or heard, left little real doubt. If it had not been for Hasenfus' confession, which I've just heard on the radio, we'd have been left with the official denials and the officially unofficial suggestion that out in the Nicaraguan jungles ~~a~~ might have forged Southern Air identification for the dead pilot.

Nobody in the press seems to have remembered that when we were preparing for the inevitable fiasco of the Pay of Pigs those pilots were not employed by the CIA. Their employer was aCIA front known as Doubl-Chek Corp. And those poor, misguided and misled airmen also died in another futility in pursuance of a futile national policy- at least the CIA's if not the nation's. So it was not remembered in the current reporting all the seemingly failed journalistic memories just happen to coincide with and support government disinformation.

This is what happened to us. I'm sorry, very sorry about it. Especially when I remember what some of our wise men said, Santayana about being doomed to relive history if we forget it and Cardoza, about the government, for good or ill, being the teacher of us all.

One of the reasons some government agencies dislike me and have practised KGB/Gestapo abuses against me is that when once before I persisted, then also in the face of journalistic disinterest and silence, Congress amended FOIA over me and that is what opened some of the FBI, CIA and other files for the kinds of disclosures earlier reported by the Post.

I today am not optimistic about my chances but I've not forgotten Polonius or among the other quotables I never hear quoted any more, Frost on promises to keep, albeit I now have so many fewer miles.

I know of your interest in the Nicaraguan tragedy and I did not want you to think I was just spouting off without some knowledge and recollection, so maybe the enclosures will inform you as well as support what I was saying. And please do not feel that this calls for any response. Spend that time on the fine things you do, like telling us about truth in today's fine column.

Best wishes,

Harold Weisberg